

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the at least one component placing device mounts the components simultaneously or alternately on two boards which have been transferred by the two board transfer devices to respective component mounting positions.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the at least one component supply device includes two component supply devices each arranged at the outside of the board transfer device associated thereto.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein each of the board transfer devices is adjustable to alter the transfer way width thereof in a direction perpendicular to the transfer direction.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the at least one component placing device comprises a single component placing head.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 4, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the single component placing head to mount the components picked up from the at least one component supply device, on two boards alternately.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 4, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the at least one component placing device to mount the components picked up from the component supply device, on two boards alternately at different frequencies.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 4, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the at least one component placing device to perform the component mountings intensively onto one of the two boards while the other board is being transferred after the completion of the component mountings thereon, or while the board transfer device for transferring the other board is being adjusted to alter the transfer way width thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the at least one component placing device comprises two component placing heads, further comprising two head moving mechanisms for respectively for moving the two component placing heads independently of each other.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 8, wherein a controller is provided for controlling one of the component placing heads to perform the component mountings mainly at one of the two board transfer devices and for controlling the other placing head to perform the component mountings mainly at the other board transfer device.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 8, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the component mounting apparatus in such a way that while one of the two boards is being transferred after the completion of the component mountings thereon, or while the board transfer device for transferring the one board is being adjusted to alter the transfer way width thereof, one of the at least one component placing device for performing the component mountings mainly on the one board performs the component mountings on the other board to help another component placing device in performing the component mountings on the other board.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 8, wherein the positions to which the two board transfer devices respectively transfer the two boards for component mountings thereon are different from each other.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 8, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the component mounting apparatus in such a way that while one of the at least one component placing device is performing the component mountings on one of the two boards within a predetermined interference risk zone which is around a center portion between the two boards, another component placing device performs the component mountings on the other board within an interference-free zone which is outside the interference risk zone.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 8, wherein a controller is provided for controlling the component mounting apparatus in such a way that while one of the two boards is being transferred after the completion of the component mountings thereon, or while the board transfer device for transferring the one board is being adjusted to alter the transfer way width thereof, the at least one component placing device and another component placing device are selectively advanced into a predetermined interference risk zone which is around a center portion between the two boards, to perform the component mountings on the other board.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): The system of Claim 8, wherein setting means is provided for setting one of the two board transfer devices as regular type product transfer device for transferring boards used for regular type products and the other board

transfer device as brake-in ~~unscheduled~~ product transfer device for transferring boards used for brake-in ~~unscheduled~~ products which are different in width from the regular type products.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): The system of Claim 14, wherein the regular type products are changeable from the first-type regular products on which component mountings are being performed at the one board transfer device, to second-type products, the apparatus further comprising:

trial production means operable prior to such changing for effecting component mountings on the boards for the second-type products at the other board transfer device on a trial basis; and

setting change means for changing the setting means so that at the time of such changing, the other board transfer device is set as the regular type product transfer device for transferring boards used for regular type products, while the one board transfer device is set as brake-in ~~unscheduled~~ product transfer device for transferring boards used for brake-in ~~unscheduled~~ products which are different in width from the regular type products.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The system of Claim 1, wherein the products on which the component mountings are performed at the two board transfer devices are changeable from first-type products to second-type products, the apparatus further comprising:

trial mounting means operable when component mountings are performed on the boards for the first-type products at one of the two board transfer devices, for effecting component mountings on the boards for the second-type products at the other board transfer device on a trial basis; and

another trial mounting means for effecting component mountings on the boards for the second-type products at the one board transfer device after component mountings on a full-scale basis are started on the boards for the second-type products at the other transfer device.

Claims 17-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A component mounting system comprising a component mounting apparatus which has two board transfer devices provided in parallel relation for respectively transferring boards in a predetermined transfer direction; at least one component supply device for supplying components of plural kinds to be mounted on the boards; and at least one component placing device for picking up the components supplied from the at least one component supply device to mount the picked-up components on the boards; and further comprising a shifting device provided at an entrance side of the component mounting apparatus for loading the boards selectively into the two board transfer devices; the system being operable in a first production mode wherein the at least one component placing device mounts components on two boards which have been transferred by the two board transfer devices to respective component mounting positions or in a second production mode wherein one of the two board transfer devices is used as mounting conveyor where the at least one component placing device mounts components on the boards, while the other board transfer device is used as a bypass conveyor by which the boards unnecessary to have components mounted thereon are transferred to bypass the mounting operations at the one board transfer device.

Claims 26-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The component mounting system of Claim 25, wherein boards of various kinds are loaded and fed to the board transfer devices ~~in a random order~~, and wherein in the first production mode, the shifting device loads the boards selectively into the board transfer devices in dependence on the kinds thereof to effect mounting operations on the boards, while in the second production mode, the shifting device loads boards on which components are to be mounted in the component mounting apparatus, into one of the transfer devices to effect mounting operations on the boards and loads boards on which any component is not to be mounted in the component mounting apparatus, into the other transfer device to make the board bypass the component mounting apparatus.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The component mounting system of Claim 25, further comprising an additional shifting device provided at an exit side of the component mounting apparatus for unloading the boards from the component mounting apparatus and a board discharge device connected to the additional shifting device for discharging any board on which component mountings have been completed, from the component mounting system.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The component mounting system of Claim 25, further comprising a controller configured to make the system selectively operable in the first production mode and in the second production mode.